

BBWI is also an active and involved corporate partner to Idaho. Supporting its community through contributions such as civic, cultural arts, and educational organizations, BBWI helps strengthen the fabric of communities and improve the quality of life for Idahoans.

I am proud to represent AMWTP, a leading corporation in Idaho and for other waste treatment sites across the country.

**HONORING MR. CLAUDE DOUTHIT
FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATION
TO THE NORTH SHORE ROAD
SETTLEMENT**

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Claude Douthit for a life dedicated to helping others in Western North Carolina.

Mr. Claude Douthit, a native of Swain County in Western North Carolina, has dedicated hard work and countless hours into the North Shore Settlement. When the federal government purchased 44,000 acres of North Carolina mountain land and built Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River to generate hydroelectric power for the war effort, Mr. Douthit, a Tennessee Valley Authority employee, initially favored the building of the road.

The rising waters of Fontana Lake flooded several small communities, forcing more than 200 families out of their homes expecting the government to follow through on its wartime pledge to build a road they could use to reach abandoned home sites and family cemeteries.

Instead, the government delayed, and thirty years later, only 6.2 miles of pavement and a short tunnel had been built at the eastern tip of Fontana Lake. Convinced that the road would never be finished, Mr. Douthit began working for an alternate solution, a cash settlement for Swain County. In 2000 Mr. Douthit and his wife Jean Douthit helped to organize a group called Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, gathering support from a broad coalition of conservationists, parks enthusiasts, environmentalists, public officials, and private organizations.

Mr. Douthit was determined to get a settlement for the county and through his hard work and that of the Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, an agreement was finally reached in 2010, with the government agreeing to pay \$52 million to the county. This settlement agreement will guarantee that Swain County has the resources it needs to thrive and grow for decades to come.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working citizens like Mr. Claude Douthit. His devotion to his community is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Claude Douthit for his lasting impact on Swain County.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,729,488,947,751.89.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,091,063,201,458.09 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RICHARD BERDNİK**

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the achievements of an outstanding individual, Sheriff Richard Berdnik, who will be recognized by the Central of Polish Organizations of Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Sheriff Berdnik has been selected as the Continent's 2011 Marshal and will lead them in the 74th Annual General Kazimierz Pulaski Memorial Parade in New York City on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known. Richard has been a true public servant, one whose commitment to excellence and integrity has helped to enhance and protect countless lives.

Richard is the son of Bernice and Bazil Berdnik, Polish immigrants who endured the hardship of Stalin's gulags. He is a graduate of both the New Jersey State Police Academy and the prestigious National Academy of the FBI.

Sheriff Berdnik's bravery and involvement in the community make him an esteemed individual among his colleagues as well as the citizens he serves. He has been honored with a number of awards; among them The Meritorious Service Medal he received for his quick and efficient response in apprehending criminals. He is also a "Life Saving" Medal recipient, having saved the lives of an elderly person and a child from a burning house.

Sheriff Berdnik is a member of several professional associations, including the FBI National Academy Associates, the New Jersey Honor Legion of Decorated Officers, the Clifton PBA Local 36 and the Passaic County Chiefs of Police Association.

Sheriff Berdnik served as a Police Officer in the City of Clifton for almost 30 years. The knowledge and experience he has acquired has made him not only a great officer, but an outstanding role model to younger police officers. It is his commitment, dedication and ambition that helped him rise through the ranks of the Clifton Police Dept. These same charac-

teristics are what led to his selection as a candidate and his election to the office of Passaic County Sheriff in the November of 2010.

As Sheriff, Richard has been a loyal and energetic leader, and has displayed wisdom and courage in situations requiring strong direction. Sheriff Berdnik demonstrated his leadership during the floods of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. He made Passaic County proud when he recently testified in front of the House Committee on Homeland Security about the need for comprehensive legislation to combat the threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

More than just being a valued leader in the community and honorable public official, he is a beloved husband and father. Richard and his wife, Monica, have been married for over 25 years and have four children: sons, Ryan and Kevin and daughters, Ashley and Alyssa. Ashley is also being honored by the same organization as their Miss Polonia 2011. The Berdnik Family has consistently displayed some of the highest American ideals, among which are courage, determination, and integrity, and I trust he will continue that legacy.

Though the job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, few experiences compare to meeting, working with and having the honor of recognizing the impressive accomplishments of individuals like Sheriff Richard Berdnik.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Central of Polish Organizations, the County of Passaic, the Berdnik family, Richard's colleagues and friends in celebrating the great achievements of my friend, Sheriff Richard Berdnik; recognized tonight for his leadership, his loyal service to the public and his celebration of his heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC on September 12, 2011 and September 14–15, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 699, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 700, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 701, to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports; "no" on rollcall vote No. 706, relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit; "no" on rollcall vote No. 707, on ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 2587; "no" on rollcall vote No. 708, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2587; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 709, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 710, the motion to recommit H.R. 2587; "no" on rollcall vote No. 711, final passage of the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act.